Defense Document 11 50 No

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******* (1) German Contact Landlished: As Colonel Eugen Ott rose to Major General and from Assistant Military attache to military attache and finally to ambassador, Sorge's access to the best German information in Japan became established. Ott found Sorge's information and advice invaluable and needless to say the 4th Bureau in Moscow, through Serge, found Ott's information even more invaluable. With the passage of years Ott came to show his official documents quite freely to Sorge, to exchange views and to keep him informed. Similarly, the Military Attache, the Air Attache, the Naval Attache and the Gestapo chief attached to the Embassy from 1940, Colonel Joseph Meissinger, came to trust and rely on Dr. Michard Serge. Only the Naval Attache seems to have doubted him, and not on any suspicion of Soviet loyalties but because he didn't like him. Naturally, it took many years for Sorge to arrive at this incredible position of trust at the German Embassy, but by 1939 he had covered the full route. After the outbreak of the European war Ott designated Sorge as press attache of the embassy, putting him on the German payroll, and giving him the strength of official position. Most mornings after Sorge had pounded out the press releases on the progress of the war in Europe, he joined the ambassador over late breakfast. Sorge had much to give the ambassador in the way of Japanese gossip and fact, and in turn the ambas-sader had much to tell Sorge. He showed Sorge the instructions from home and his proposed replies. Having the ambassador's example, he did the other chief members of the mission, the officer closest to Dr. Richard Serge, Soviet Spy, being none other than Colonel Meissinger of the Gestapo. On occasion Sorge memerized the essentials of these documents and conversations, and sometimes he recorded the documents with his ever present camera. Like de Voukelitch he was an incorrigible amateur camera enthusiast.

After 1939, with his office at the German Embassy, and in effect a part of that embassy's intelligence erganization, Sorge's position was perfect for learning everything about Japan, its capacities and intentions, that was known to Japan's ally, Germany. There was much unknown to the German allies, however, and this information Sorge had to gather in other ways. After the signing of the Tripartite Pact on 27 September 1940, however, the Japanese Army and "avy General Staff discussed their problems far more freely with appropriate members of the German Embassy.

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Defense Document 3025

These embassy officers from the asked Sorge for his opinions. Indeed, Sorge had been a primary architect of that Axis Pact. General out had relt so indebted to Sorge for his work in the development of the Trithe Pact that he intended to have Sorge present at the official signing in Tokyo Hitler's special reptrom China to complete the treaty, however, objected, and Sorge was not present. Standar had no suspicion of Sorge's integrity. At most he must have been jealous of sharing credit with a relativoly unknown and minor figure. There is nothing more ironical in the history of the Sorge ring, however, than Sorge's part in bringing on the Tripartite Pact which inevitably hastened the war and Ozaki Hozumi's part, related later, in establishing the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.

(pages 24-25)

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